

is under consideration of the Government. No final decision has yet been taken.

Proposal to privatise Vizag Steel Plant

128. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposed to sell off Vizag Steel Plant to Private Players;

(b) If so, the reasons for not granting fund to help the PSU to revive; and

(c) the action proposed to protect jobs of 17,000 employees of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) had submitted a comprehensive turnaround proposal for its revival *inter alia* including infusion of funds, but it was not found viable by the Government. In the meantime, the Disinvestment Commission recommended writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 alongwith disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. However, no final decision has yet been taken on these recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

Progress of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. in Orissa

129. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress of Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. being set up near Dubri in Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress as on date;

(c) the capacity of that plant; and

(d) the expected date of its commercial production?